

Curriculum Policy



Hollygirt School NOTTINGHAM

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To be read in conjunction with the following policies:

- Assessment, Recording and Reporting Policy
- Behaviour and Discipline Policy
- Fundamental British Values Policy
- PSHE and RSE Policy
- SEND Policy

This policy will be reviewed annually.

1. Aims

The aim of the curriculum of is to provide a full time, supervised learning experience for all pupils, as described under section 8 of the Education Act 1996 (as amended), that offers breadth, balance, relevance and differentiation in linguistic, mathematical, scientific, technological, human and social, physical and aesthetic and creative education. This aims to ensure acquisition of age-appropriate skills in speaking, listening, literacy and numeracy as well as physical skills. The curriculum will promote the spiritual, cultural, moral, emotional and physical development of all pupils at the school and will prepare pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life in contemporary society.

The curriculum aims to meet the needs of all pupils including those with a school Individual Education Plan (IEP) or holding an Educational, Health and Care Plan (EHCP), where entry to the school has been agreed. Within the ethos of the school and throughout its taught lessons and extra-curricular activities, it does not undermine the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.

Throughout all Key Stages the curriculum broadly follows the National Curriculum and supports continuity of learning between the key stages to support every pupil to learn and make progress. The curriculum is currently managed by the Head, Assistant Head (Academic) and the Head of Prep. Each curriculum area of learning is coordinated by a Head of Department or Subject Co-ordinator, who is responsible for departmental

policy. Class teachers are responsible for lesson planning in accordance with departmental Schemes of Work.

Staff deliver a wide variety of topics, maintaining a culture of equality in which pupils with protected characteristics, as defined under the Equality Act 2010, do not experience unlawful discrimination. Where political issues may arise through the course of study or through Extra Curricular activities, pupils are offered a balanced presentation of opposing views. The curriculum does not undermine the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.

2. General

Pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is promoted through the curriculum as a whole to enable our pupils to develop an informed appreciation of the wider world around them, alongside the PSHE programme (see also PSHE and RSE Policy) and also school assemblies during morning registration times. Through these, as well as within certain areas of subject lessons, particular attention is paid to fundamental British values. See the Fundamental British Values Policy for further details.

All pupils across the whole school receive careers guidance, for example, during PSHE lessons, career days and form time activities throughout the year. In Year 10 pupils participate in a programme of Work Experience.

Extra-curricular activities take place during the lunch break and after school.

The timetable operates over 5 days with each day having 8 x 40-minute lessons in Seniors and slightly reduced times for some periods in the Prep School to fit with their school day. Please refer to the Appendices of this Policy for details of the breakdown of subject lesson time within the timetable. The curriculum for each Key Stage and departments utilises a range of quality classroom resources in the planning and delivery of pupils' education. Setting may take place in the Senior School for some subjects where appropriate. The organisation of sets and groups varies from year to year depending on the needs of a particular group.

Marking conventions and assessment frequency are set by departments. Typically this will include a mixture of self-marking, peer marking and teacher marking. Reference should be made to the Assessment Recording and Reporting Policy for further details.

A culture of behaviour for learning is embedded in the ethos of the school and we have high expectations for all our pupils. See the Behaviour Policy for further details.

All lessons are instructed in English throughout the school, unless another language is the focus of the lesson, for example during Modern Foreign Language lessons.

3. Curriculum

3.1. Key Stage 2 (Year 6)

The planned curriculum for all pupils in Key Stage 2, Year 6, includes:

English, Mathematics, Science, History, Geography, Modern Foreign Language, Art, Food and Nutrition, Physical Education, Music, Religious Studies, PSHE, Computing and Business.

History, Geography and Religious Studies objectives are covered by termly topics.

3.2. Key Stage 3

The planned curriculum for all Key Stage 3 pupils includes English (including Language, Literature and Drama, along with literacy in Year 7 and Year 8), Mathematics, Science (Year 7: General Science, Year 8 and 9: Biology, Chemistry and Physics), Computing, Design and Technology, Spanish, French, History, Geography, Art, Music, Religious Studies, Physical Education and PSHE.

3.3. Key Stage 4

In Key Stage 4 the core curriculum includes English Language, English Literature, Mathematics, Physical Education (non- examined) and PSHE (non-examined) and at least one science from Biology, Chemistry or Physics

The optional subjects which may be chosen from are given in the Year 9 Options Booklet for each academic year and made available to current pupils and parents.

Typically, a pupil will select six optional subjects as part of a full timetabled curriculum and all pupils are encouraged to select a broad range of subjects. Individual learning needs will be considered where adjustments to this number of subjects, or the range of suitable subjects, are required.

Additionally, some examined subjects may be offered as part of the Extra-curricular Activities offering, subject interest and staffing.

4. Special Educational Needs (SEND)

Pupils with identified special education needs can have a programme of support and may at times be supported by a Classroom Assistant . Where a pupil has an Educational Health Care Plan, appropriate support will be determined within this. Please refer the Special Educational Needs Policy for further details.

5. Policy Frameworks

- Careers Guidance and access for education and training providers (June 2026)
- The Independent School Standards (April 2026)
- Education Act (2011), Section 29.
- Equality Act 2010
- CDI – Careers Development Institute www.thecdi.net
- National Careers Services - nationalcareers.service.gov.uk

- Keeping Children Safe in Education (current year)
- Working together to Safeguard Children (2023)
- Children Act 2004
- PSHE Personal Social Health and Economic Education – www.pshe-association.org.uk
- Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education (July 2025)
- ISS Guidance (April 2026)
- Teacher's Toolkit – Paul Ginnis
- www.direct.gov.uk
- www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk

Appendix A - Senior School Curriculum Time

Subject	Key Stage 3		
	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9
English *	5	4	4
Maths	5	5	5
Science (Biology/Chemistry/Physics)	5	6	6
Spanish	2	2	2
French	2	2	2
Design Technology	2	2	2
Drama	1	1	1
History	2	2	2
Geography	2	2	2
Art	2	2	2
Music	2	2	2
Computing	2	2	2
Physical Education	5	5	5
Religious Studies	2	2	2
PSHE	1	1	1
TOTAL	40	40	40

* English may also include Literacy and/or Reading lessons (1 x 40 minutes each)

Subject	Key Stage 4	
	Year 10	Year 11
English (Language and Literature)	6	6
Mathematics	6	6
Option A *	4	4
Option B *	4	4
Option C *	4	4
Option D *	4	4
Option E *	4	4
Option F *	4	4
Physical Education **	3	3
PSHE	1	1
Total	40	40

* Options are as per the Options Booklet for that year group, as mentioned in this Policy and provided to pupils and parents at the time of selecting them

** Where GCSE Physical Education is studied this time is additional to the time stated for the Options.

Appendix B - Year 6 Curriculum Time

Subject	Year 6
English (including Literacy)	4
Maths	4
Science	3
Topic (Hist, Geog, RS)	7
Geography	1
Art	2
Food & Nutrition	2
Music (inc Sp and Dr)	2
Languages (French)	1
Computing	2
Games / PE/ Swimming	4
Business	2
PSHE & Global Studies	2
Character Education	3
Forum	1
Total	40